

Amendment to Claims:

This listing of claims reflects the changes requested by this amendment, thereby replacing all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A surgical cement preparation system for combining a liquid ingredient together with at least one powder ingredient comprising:
a needle and syringe assembly, wherein said needle is structured to couple to said syringe and comprises a closed distal tip and at least one lateral opening located at the distal end of said needle; and
a mixing vial, said mixing vial comprising a removable cap structured to sealably close the end of said mixing vial and said cap further comprising a second opening therethrough and a second removable cap structured to sealably close [closed] said second opening.

Claim 2 (original) A surgical cement preparation system for combining a liquid ingredient together with at least one solid powder ingredient comprising:
a) a first vial dimensioned to completely accommodate a liquid ingredient container within;
b) a needle and syringe assembly, wherein said needle is structured to couple to said syringe and comprises a closed distal tip and at least one lateral opening located at the distal end of said needle, and wherein said syringe is composed of a material that is chemically compatible with said liquid;
c) a mixing vial, said mixing vial comprising a removable cap structured to

sealably close the end of said mixing vial and said cap further comprising a second opening therethrough and a second removable cap structured to sealably close [elosed] said second opening;

d) a funnel structured to removably couple to both the dimensions of the opn end of said mixing vial and those of the receiving end of a polymer delivery barrel.

Claim 3 (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein the surgical cement to be prepared is opacified polymethylmethacrylate and said liquid ingredient comprises a liquid methacrylate monomer and said solid powder ingredient comprises polymethylmethacrylate and an opacifier.

Claim 4 (original) The system according to claim 3 wherein said opacifier is barium sulfate.

Claim 5 (original) The system according to claim 2 wherein the first vial comprises a container and removable cap.

Claim 6 (original) The system according to claim 5 wherein said first vial container is composed of a material that is chemically compatible with said liquid ingredient.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The system according to claim 1 wherein said distal end of said needle comprises [eomprise] two lateral openings.

Claim 8 (original) The system according to claim 1 wherein said syringe comprises a plunger and syringe barrel assembly.

Claim 9 (original) The system according to claim 8 wherein said plunger and syringe barrel are composed of polypropylene.

Claim 10 (original) The system according to claim 1 wherein said second opening of

said mixing vial cap is dimensioned to accommodate insertion of said needle of the needle and syringe assembly therethrough.

Claim 11 (original) The system according to claim 2 wherein said funnel comprises an exterior surface structured to fixedly and removably engage at least one rim diameter of a container opening.

Claim 12 (original) The system according to claim 11 wherein said funnel comprises an exterior surface structured to fixedly and removably engage two different rim diameters.

Claim 13 (original) The system according to claim 12 wherein the exterior surface of said funnel comprises a series of steps that coordinate to engage a plurality of container rim diameters.

Claim 14 [13] (currently amended) The system of the invention according to claim 2 further comprising a spathula structured to fit within both said mixing vial and the interior dimensions of said funnel.

Claim 15 [14] (currently amended) The system according to claim 14 [13] wherein said spathula comprises an elongated planar body having first and second end portions, said first end portion having a width different than that of second end portion.

Claim 16 [15] (currently amended) A kit for preparing surgical cement comprising the system according to claim 2 and further comprising an additional component selected from the group consisting of a tray, packaging, liquid ingredient, liquid ingredient container, powder ingredient, powder ingredient container, gloves, eye shield, face mask, polymer delivery device, needle sheath, drape, tray cover,

disposal container, and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 [16] (currently amended) A kit for preparing surgical cement comprising the system according to claim 2 and further comprising a liquid container pre-filled with a liquid ingredient.

Claim 18 [17] (currently amended) A kit for preparing surgical cement comprising the system according to claim 2 and further comprising a powder ingredient container pre-filled with a powder ingredient.

Claim 19 [18] (currently amended) A kit for preparing surgical cement comprising the system according to claim 2 and further comprising a powdered ingredient within said mixing vial.

Claim 20 [19] (currently amended) The kit according to claim 19 wherein said powder ingredient within said mixing vial is an opacifier.

Claim 21 [20] (withdrawn)

Claim 22 [21] (withdrawn)

Claim 23 [22] (withdrawn)

Claim 24 [23] (withdrawn)

Claim 25 [24] (withdrawn)

Claim 26 [25] (withdrawn)

Claim 27 [26] (withdrawn)

Claim 28 [27] (withdrawn)

Claim 29 [28] (withdrawn)

Claim 30 [29] (withdrawn)

Claim 31 [30] (withdrawn)

Claim 32 [34] (withdrawn)

Claim 33 [32] (withdrawn)

Claim 34 [33] (withdrawn)